

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015



GUILDFORD & DISTRICT GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

Registered Charity No. 1051069

guildford-iam.org.uk

Data Protection Act

Names, addresses, telephone numbers and membership details for Members and Associates are stored on computer files to assist with the management of the Group and the distribution of Group correspondence.

We do not pass your details to anyone else

Editor's Notes

Please note - the views and comments herein are published without prejudice, being those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Group or the IAM.

Deadline to submit articles for the Summer 2015 edition is Fri. 15 May 2015

Letters should be sent to:- editor@guildford-iam.org.uk

KEY DATES

Observed Sunday Runs 09.15 onwards (usually 3rd. Sunday of each month)

2015	15th Mar	19th Apr	17th May	21st Jun	19th Jul	16th Aug
	20th Sep	18th Oct	15th Nov	20th Dec		

If you can't make your Observed run appointment

We try to match the number of available Observers (all volunteers) with the number of bookings, but we realise sometimes things can go wrong. If you cannot attend your booked appointment please let us know.

Please call the Associate Co-ordinator on 01252 519355 any time, or, on the morning of your appointment please call 07973 217785 or 07791 914031.

Membership Renewal

Group Membership is dated from 1st April each year. So, please renew now if you have not already done so. And many thanks to those of you who have already renewed. For Member of the Institute it costs £7.50 or £10 for a couple at the same address. For more see 'Group Membership Renewals 2015' on page 15.

Committee Meetings 8-10 pm Wednesdays, Ripley Small Hall GU23 6AF

Dates: - 2015 4 Mar. 6 May 8 Jul. 2 Sep. 4 Nov.

AGM 9.30 am–12.30 pm, Ripley Main Hall GU23 6AF

2015 Sat 26 Sep. Please put the date in your diary, and do come.

Events None planned at present.

Observers meetings 9:30 am–12:30 pm, Ripley Small Hall GU23 6AF

2015 None planned at present

Cover photo Richmond Way, Fetcham. (More inside - Editor)

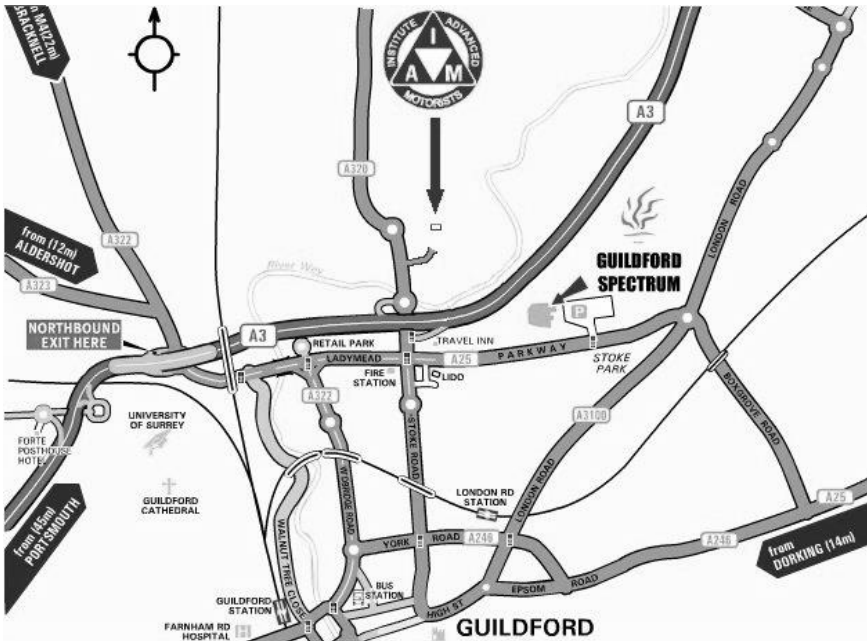
When did "Obstructing The Queen's Highway" cease to be an offence?

Observed Runs

These are conducted by appointment on usually the 3rd. Sunday of each month at 9.15am and 10.45am – refresher/taster drives at 12.00 noon - from Guildford Borough Council Woking Road Depot, Guildford GU1 1QE.

Telephone 07973 217785 or 07791 914031 on scheduled Sundays only between 9 am and 1 pm

Appointments for Observed runs - contact the Associate Co-ordinator: associates@guildford-iam.org.uk 01252 519355



Skill for Life package £149

This entitles the Associate to 6 Observed Runs in their own vehicle during the 12 months following the date of their first appointment, and includes:-

- the cost of the IAM Advanced Test
- the first year's membership of the Institute from the date of the first run
- a copy of the 'Advanced Driving' manual
- a copy of the Highway Code
- RAC membership for one year (ceasing on 31 March 2015)

From the Chair

Welcome to another edition of the Guildford and District Group of Advanced Motorists newsletter.

February saw the annual observers meeting with a great turnout realised and a number of interesting driving related items discussed. Well done to John for arranging, thanks to Trevor Bettles for attending and speaking during the event. All very interesting.

There is a large interest in the Masters qualification from our observers with a number already progressing through the course including myself. If you are looking for the next thing following your advanced test, then the Masters course is where you should have a look.

My own experiences to date have been excellent with David Horvath proving an excellent Masters mentor. Elements of my drive have been picked up and highlighted with improvements suggested and lots of extra driving practice.

In other training related news, I took my national observer test recently and passed. The Guildford group has a very large percentage of national observers in the ranks and this is due to our excellent observers who have shown their dedication to the new training and qualification, as well as John Panting in driving (pun intended) through the changes. Well done to all!

At the end of February the Guildford group supported Vines, our local BMW dealer, in the launch of the new BMW Series 2 convertible. A very well done to Graham who approached Vines. Thanks to Vines for inviting us and to the other Guildford group members who supported the event on the day.

Graham has recently taken on the event coordinator role and has some interesting plans in the diary so keep an eye open for updates to the web site, Facebook and articles in the newsletter. Thank you Graham, a great start, keep on going.

Thank you to the all of the group members, associates, observers and committee members for your continued support. Drive safely everyone.

Steven



FOLLOW US ON **twitter**

@IAMgroup



facebook.com/guildfordiam

Calling all IAM Advanced Drivers

Do you want to do your bit towards Safer Driving &/or to improve your abilities?

We are actively campaigning to get on board 10 more Observers. We know you can drive to the IAM Standard. You will receive friendly help which is freely available within the Group, to guide you concerning the training methods we use.

Now for the bonus.

Your understanding and also your driving ability will increase. And no financial cost is involved. Don't hesitate. Female and Male volunteers of all ages are welcome.

Please contact John Panting, our Chief Observer as soon as possible.
pantings@btinternet.com - call or text 07713 485547 whichever you prefer.

Our condolences to the family of Alan Hobs

Sadly, Alan Hobbs passed away over Christmas 2014. Many of us will have had Alan as our IAM Examiner for the test, always meeting at Guildford Cathedral, where he was a regular attendee and volunteer. Many others will have been to one of his driving talks a few years ago and listened to his stories. One I particularly recall involved his beloved Morris Minor Traveller. - He was being followed so closely by another driver that, allegedly, he stopped his car, got out, and started to remove the contents of his boot and place them on the road! When the driver following asked what on earth he thought he was doing, Alan replied, in his usual manner, that he presumed the other driver wanted to see all the contents of his boot as he was driving so close, - so here they are! Point well made. We will miss Alan and his unstinting support for Advanced Driving and our group.

Would you be willing to be 'First Point of Contact' for our Guildford & District Group?

Chris Hughes has served us admirably for 13 years or so, answering the phone and e-mails from prospective Associates and taking calls from the public on many IAM related matters. It is estimated that he must have passed on the IAM message to nearly 1000 people over that time - a fine achievement and a job very well done. The work is mostly home based, just requiring the use of a telephone and the internet/e-mail system to facilitate contact with potential Group Associates. This is a Committee position, and attendance at the 6 regular Committee meetings during the year would also be expected in order to keep up-to-date with Group activities and administration, and remain informed of IAM policies and products. Training will be given, and if you are interested, please contact the Chairman or the Secretary for more details.

Has your driving license got out of date?

Sound advice from MoneySavingExpert.com

More than two million people have an out-of-date driving license photocard. So check yours now. There are three big checks to do on your driving license. Dig yours out NOW and ensure you do them all, or you could be stung with a £1,000 fine.

1. Check the photocard driving license expiry date

Photocard licenses replaced paper licenses in 1998, and must be renewed every 10 years. A whopping two million photocards were out of date in January 2014, according to the DVLA, with a further 2.6 million driving license photocards due to expire by the end of that year. Driving license photos must be replaced every 10 years (no matter how young you look!)

It's easy to forget, but a quick check now could save you a fine of up to £1,000 if your photocard has expired. It's an annoying £14 to renew (£17 if you renew by post), but that's a far better option. There are a few dates printed on the photocard, but the one you need is the photo expiry date printed in **section 4b** on the front of the card.

If you can't find your photocard, this is how to renew it. The process is similar whether you are renewing a license or replacing a lost or stolen one. There are three ways to apply.

Online. You can apply online at Gov.uk providing you have a valid UK passport.

By post. You can get forms from most Post Offices, or from the DVLA website.

In person at selected Post Offices. This costs £4.50 on top of the £20 fee.

There is a £14 fee for each renewal if you do it on line, £17 to renew by post. You should be sent a reminder and form about two months before expiry. However, as many miss this or forget, it is well worth noting when yours expires. Though the photocard needs to be renewed every 10 years, in general driving licenses are valid until you are 70. After that they need renewing every three years. If you only need to update your address or name, or you are over 70 and you are just renewing it, this is free. There is no limit to the number of times you can update your name and address for free. The new card should arrive within three weeks (though it is wise to apply earlier just in case). If you apply on line, you will usually get your new card within one week.

My photocard has already expired. Will I be fined if I renew it?

The DVLA told us it strongly advises people to renew photocards promptly to avoid the risk of being fined up to £1000. But don't panic if you have overlooked yours. The DVLA says renewing late will not prompt a fine. The fine is for driving without a valid license.

The DVLA writes to every driver when their photocard driving license is due for renewal, providing instructions on how to renew and the penalty for not doing so

Why does the photocard expire every 10 years?

The DVLA told us that appearances can change. It is important that photocard licenses are updated every 10 years to ensure that the police and other enforcement agencies have the best possible photograph to help them correctly identify whether a driving license is being used fraudulently, helping to prevent driving license impersonation and stopping disqualified and perhaps dangerous drivers taking to our roads.

If I only have a paper license

Although paper licenses are no longer issued, if you have one it won't expire until you are 70. You don't need to do anything until then unless your address or personal details change. All licenses will be in photocard format by 2033. Once you reach 70 there is no fee to renew and you will then get a photocard. If you want to upgrade before then, you can apply to change your paper license for a photocard. It will cost you £20 and you will need to show extra ID (see Gov.uk). The DVLA plans to scrap the paper counterpart to the photocard driving license by 2015.

Beware of unofficial driving license websites

If you are looking to renew your license, don't just Google it. If you do, you may find unofficial websites charging anywhere between £10 and £80 on top of the standard driving license cost, to process your application. The DVLA told us they are getting complaints from customers who have not used the official DVLA website to apply for their license. If you are concerned about an unofficial driving license website, contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 08454 040 506

2. Check your correct address is on it

According to insurer Direct Line, more than 2.6 million motorists hadn't updated their driving license with their current address in June 2013. It sounds bonkers, but forget to update your address and you risk a £1,000 fine if stopped by the police. So check now to make sure it's correct. If your address isn't accurate, or if you've moved since you registered, it's free to update and you can do this as many times as needed, which is handy if you have other house moves down the line

Will my photocard's expiry date be renewed if I update my address?

If you are only changing your personal details, the photocard's renewal date won't be updated. Although it is free to do this, if you decide to include a new photo to renew your photocard at the same time, this will cost £20. But you don't have to do this unless your previous photo has expired

3. Check your name is correct if you've changed it

The third check is to make sure your name is correct on your driving license, particularly if you've changed it since getting married. Last year Direct Line found 3% of married women had an out-of-date name on their license, which bizarrely could also incur a £1,000 fine. So if you think you could be affected, check now.

How to update your name

To update your name, order the form from Gov.uk and post it to the DVLA along with the other documents needed. Forms are also available from most Post Offices. As with address updates, there is no limit to the number of times you can update your name for free.

Will my photocard's expiry date be renewed if I update my name?

As with updating your address, the photocard's renewal date won't be updated.

Driving in Europe

More good advice from MoneySavingExpert.com

UK driving licenses are accepted in the EU, but check yours is valid before you go. The DVLA advises drivers travelling abroad to carry a photocard license, rather than an all-paper version. It isn't obligatory, but may make your journey easier.

Outside of this, don't assume you're insured if you're taking your own car to the continent. Follow these tips to ensure you're fully prepared:

- **Car insurance**

Most comprehensive or third party, fire and theft policies become third party outside the UK (i.e. they'll pay if you damage another car but not your own, and no cover if your car's stolen abroad). You may need to tell your insurer about your trip, so check your policy or call to confirm.

- **Breakdown cover**

Outside the UK breakdown cover often isn't valid. Do a check and if yours is not, you can either upgrade to a European policy or buy special one-off temporary cover.

- **Do a maintenance check**

Do all maintenance before you go, and ensure you've got manuals and the numbers to call if your vehicle breaks down.

- **Driving rules**

Check the country-by-country overseas driving regulations on the AA website to make sure you're familiar with the local rules before you go.

Driving outside the EU

A UK driving license is accepted throughout the EU, but if you're planning a road trip further afield, check if you'll need an International Driving Permit (IDP). These are required or recommended in about 140 countries, including the USA, Thailand and India. Drive without one where it's needed and you risk trouble with the authorities, and may be refused a hire car.

IDPs are in booklet format and contain several translations of your driving license. There are two types known as the 1926 and 1949 Conventions, and both are the same price. Which you'll need depends on where you're off to. So, well before you leave, check the AA website for the full list of countries where a permit is required or recommended. It will also tell you which type to get. You'll need to be 18 or over and hold a full driving license to get an International Driving Permit.

How to apply to get an IDP

- £5.50 in person from selected Post Office branches.
- £8 from RAC by post.
- £8.50 from the AA by post

An IDP lasts a year, and you can apply up to three months in advance of going away so there's no need to leave it to the last minute. The fastest way to get one is over the counter at the Post Office. The AA say to allow 10 working days by post. It doesn't replace a driving license though, as you'll need to show both when required.

Only buy an IDP via the methods above. Beware websites selling 'international driving licenses'. They aren't legally recognised documents. So don't get caught out.

An AA spokesperson told us:

Some people mistakenly refer to International Driving Permits as 'international driving licenses'. However, there is no such thing as an international driving license – they are not legally recognised – so don't be fooled into buying one, as they are not worth the paper they are printed on.

An IDP, on the other hand, is required or recommended in 140 countries and is recognised internationally – they are issued in accordance with Road Traffic Conventions, which stipulate that they can only be issued by motoring organisations or motoring authorities.

If you're thinking of hiring abroad, check out the Cheap Car Hire guide for tips. And if you're jetting off, don't forget the free passport-sized Little Lifesaver travel guide in case of emergencies.

Member Information

New Associates

We welcome:-

Terry Bailey, Jenny Barnes, Richard Bennett-Chick, Marcus Bird, Steven Croucher, Gurthej Deusi, Colin Hanner, Paul Kerstin, Julian Knopf, Joseph Orr, and Lesley Williams

We hope you all enjoy your observed runs and we wish you all the best when taking your Advanced Driving Test.

Recent Test Passes

Congratulations to:- William Blackmur, Leslie Etherington, James Hayhoe, David Holloway and Debbie Miller

Get the best safety for your child in the car

(More good advice from Chiswick)

A properly fitted car restraint will help prevent your child from being injured in the event of a crash, but did you know they are still at risk if the harness is not correctly fastened? The IAM's head of road safety, Kevin Delaney, shares his top tips for parents putting children in car seats. Let's make your child's journey a safe one.

1. Make sure the seat fits your car properly. Car seats are designed for the average adult and not every combination of child seat and car model is compatible. Time spent researching and trying out seats will ensure you have the safest possible set up. If you already have a car seat that moves about when you are travelling, then either it has not been fitted properly or it is incompatible with your car. If this is the case, we would advise you to replace it before travelling with children.

2. Make sure your child seat or restraint is suited for the age and size of the child. There are legal conditions here. If in doubt seek advice from a reliable source, for example a reputable child seat provider.

3. Parents of very young children must use a car seat that is rear facing because they face greater risk of spinal cord injuries in a front facing seat. Ideally, you should keep the car seat rear facing for as long as possible to avoid risk of injury.

4. For maximum security the car seat should be installed in the back seat of the car. Although a car seat can also be installed in the front seat this should be avoided unless the front passenger airbag switch has been disabled.

5. All car seats will come with an expiration date normally six years after the manufacture date. Constant temperature and moisture changes will affect the condition of any car seat over the years. So it's important that parents check the seat is still within a useable date. The expiration date is usually printed on the bottom of the seat.

6. Toddlers will often wriggle their arms out of the harness and will therefore be at a higher risk of sustaining an injury in the event of an accident. To prevent this, make sure the harness is the correct height and pulled comfortably around them. With a rear facing seat the shoulder belt should be level with the child's shoulders.

7. Ensuring your child is both warm and safe when travelling during the winter is extremely important. But bulky clothing can compromise your child's safety as a thick coat may leave the harness slack. Use a warm blanket that can be wrapped around your child for the length of the journey.

8. To check if the harness is fastened properly put two flat fingers between the child's collar-bone and the harness. If your child is experiencing discomfort then the harness will need to be slightly loosened.

Kevin said: "It is important to follow all the instructions for fitting a car seat closely to ensure it does its job properly. Child seats are becoming increasingly complex these days and you need to check the height and weight of your child to get the best fit. If you have bought a new car the manufacturer will likely recommend a brand of car seat and your dealer should help you fit it. Many retailers are part of quality controlled schemes such as Good Egg and will offer a 'try before you buy' facility. Take advantage of this service if it is offered to you.



More from Richmond Way, Fetcham



Folk parking on one side of a road causes quite enough inconvenience for other drivers. When they park on both sides they create major hazards. And even the presence of a policewoman telling them they are not supposed to do it appears not to solve the problem! And Richmond Way is not alone in having these problems!

The New Drug-driving Laws

The Institute of Advanced Motorists has described the introduction of new drug-driving laws as 'a big step forward for road safety.'

There is now a new offence of driving while over the prescribed limit of certain drugs. For the first time ever, limits have been set for illegal drugs including heroin, cocaine, LSD and cannabis, plus a number of medicinal drugs including morphine and methadone.

The new procedure will bring detection of drug driving into line with the widely understood drink driving enforcement procedure. Police will no longer need to prove that driving was impaired. They will simply obtain a blood sample and show that any of the specified drugs are present above the prescribed limit.

Roadside drugalysers or a **Field Impairment Test** can be used in the first instance to test drivers - similar to the way drink/driving processes have operated in the past.

The IAM added that in the case of prescribed and over-the-counter medication users should read the accompanying information very carefully. You need to find out if the prescribed dosage will impair your ability to control your vehicle.

Estimates suggest as many as 200 drug driving related deaths occur every year in the British Isles. Surveys suggest that one in ten young male drivers have driven under the influence of cannabis, and 370,000 have driven under the influence of class A drugs.

Sarah Sillars, IAM chief executive officer, said: "The new law is a real step in the right direction for the eradication of driving under the influence of drugs. The IAM has always stated there should be no doubt to drivers and riders as to what the correct course of action should be; no-one should be driving while under the influence of alcohol or any illegal drugs in your system.

"Many drugs impair the senses to a massive degree – if you are not in full control of your vehicle, you become a severe danger to yourself, your passengers and other road users. It is a self-centred action and those committing it are now being punished with the full force of the law.

Now at last, there is a real deterrent. We also urge drivers and riders not to forget how prescription drugs can affect one's ability to control a vehicle. Don't ignore the instructions and think you know better."

The IAM's policy statement on drugs and driving can be found here: <http://iam.org.uk/policydrugsdriving>

The Field Impairment Test

This test is used by the police at the roadside to assess drivers whom they think might be under the influence of drugs. – It includes:-

Pupil size. The normal range is 3-6.5 mm and different drugs can constrict or dilate the pupils.

The Romberg Test. Stand with feet together and head tilted back with eyes closed while estimating when 30 seconds has passed. Anywhere between 25 and 35 seconds is regarded as normal for this.

Walk heel to toe in a straight line while counting out your steps.

Stand on one leg while counting out loud.

Tilt head back, close eyes and touch finger to nose.

NEED A REFRESHER?

Lost some of those finely tuned skills?

Book a refresher drive with our Associate Co-ordinator and get back to 'test standard' with our experienced volunteer Observers.

All it takes is an hour or so of your time and a gallon or so of fuel.

Call Paul Wallace-Stock on:-

01252 519355 to arrange an appointment for 12:00 on one of our Sunday Runs

it's free for Guildford Group members.

Don't delay, call today

End of free RAC breakdown cover with Skill for Life

As from 31 March, the offer of 12 months free RAC roadside and recovery breakdown cover with each Skill for Life course will cease to be given. IAM will continue to honour any vouchers issued before that date for the remainder of the year as members activate them. Please encourage any interested people who may be considering the IAM course to purchase their Skill for Life before the end of March so that they can take advantage of this valuable offer. If you have any questions contact your regional manager or the Customer Care Team.

The Drivers with the most Penalty Points

The IAM has discovered that a motorist from Lewisham has racked up an astounding 40 points for 12 offences despite never having held a full or even a provisional driving licence!

IAM chief executive Sarah Sillars says:

“It’s been three years since the IAM raised this issue with the DVLA, but we still have drivers on the road with multiple points allocated to them. Now we discover that some of them have never held any kind of driving licence. We all have to share the road with these unqualified, uninsured and dangerous drivers. We need to punish offenders as well as give them the opportunity to change their ways. Offenders are unlikely to drive legally if they face a ban or points on their licence as soon as they pass their test.”

Following a Freedom of Information request, the DVLA supplied information in February about offences including speeding in a 30mph zone and driving without insurance. Response to the request, which asked for the top 20 highest points holders, also shows two other offenders with no licence.

The second highest penalty points holder without a licence is a male offender from the Stockport area, with 33 penalty points for seven offences, including caught for speeding in a 30mph zone and repeatedly failing to disclose information as to the identity of the driver.

And the third highest penalty point’s holder driving without a licence is a man from Leeds with 28 penalty points for five offences including driving uninsured against third party risks and driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence.

Peter Rodger, IAM’s chief examiner, on Eco-driving

Before setting off ask yourself if you really need to drive, especially on short journeys where you can walk or cycle. Your engine stays cold when you drive less than two miles and your car will produce 60% more pollution than a warm engine. Avoid short journeys whenever possible.

Use alternative green fuels that contribute to the reduction in CO₂ emissions if possible. Remember never fill the tank right up as this also reduces fuel efficiency.

Extending your planning and observational skills will help you approach hazards a lot more smoothly without having to brake sharply and accelerate too often. The earlier you plan ahead, the sooner you can prepare to slow down if you need to.

Making sure you keep to the speed limit not only ensures you avoid the risk of incurring a fine, but also ensures you reduce fuel consumption by up to 25 per cent.

Do you have a friend or relative who would benefit from our advice and guidance?



If so, please put them in touch with Chris Hughes,
firstcontact@guildford-iam.org.uk - 07814 172531

Please pass on this newsletter once you've read it – how about taking it to the garage where you have your car serviced and asking them to support us?

to protect both the environment and your bank balance.

In a manual car use block gear changes on deceleration, e.g. go straight from fifth into second gear if possible and appropriate – this will save a lot more fuel.

If it is safe to do so, switch off your engine when you are stuck in a long queue. However, ensure that you remain alert and prepare for traffic to resume.

Where possible, reverse into a parking bay so when you drive off again you can do so easily. It's far more efficient and improves visibility.

Heavy items in your car boot or a roof rack can also increase drag and therefore lower fuel economy. Avoid weighing your car down with items you'll never need.

Peter said: "There are many simple ways to improve fuel economy with small changes to your driving behaviour, not only saving money, but becoming a safer driver."

Group Membership Renewals 2015

A few procedural changes this year

We are reaching that time of year again when your Group Membership subscription is due for renewal. Group membership is quite separate from national IAM membership, although only current IAM Members are eligible, and it is organised on a different basis. Whereas national IAM membership renews on the anniversary of your joining, all Group memberships fall due on 1st April. This simplifies administration for the Group.

For 2015 we are making some changes in how we handle the renewals and in our communications with members, so I thought it might be helpful to outline these changes and to reconfirm some other aspects of Group subscriptions.

Associates benefit from a year's membership of the Group as part of their Skill for Life package. When you pass your test and become a full member we invite you to remain a Group member and to pay the annual subscription. However, no payment is due until the first Group renewal date after your successful Test, even if you may have had to renew your national membership in the meantime. All current Full Members receive a reminder that their Group subscription is due for renewal with instructions on how to renew it.

Historically, paper renewal forms were sent to Members with the Spring Newsletter, to be returned with a cheque to the Membership Secretary. The form required Members to confirm that they were still IAM members and provided a means of updating personal details and Gift Aid arrangements.

Developments in technology over recent years mean the Group can now verify IAM membership status online and can send documents to members and receive replies electronically. Members can also make subscription payments via internet banking. We have now reached a point where the majority of membership renewals can be done in a paperless manner. Members have become accustomed to e-mail communications and we can use these advantages to improve our overall service and to reduce our costs.

Now the Group wishes to make e-mail its primary means of communicating with members. We shall continue to send our Newsletter in its current format twice a year, but propose to use digital media for other, perhaps shorter but more frequent, news updates. We shall also use e-mail to remind members of other Group activities as well as for the annual membership renewal.

Additionally, we wish to make better use of the website for passing on information. We are, however, conscious of the annoyance caused by over-frequent e-mails and intend to strike a cautious balance between increased communication and the greater information which was sought by members in our recent survey. To this end we shall be formally seeking permission from members renewing their membership to extend our electronic communications with them.

For this year's renewal process all Members will receive a renewal form which will give them the opportunity to choose the level of communications they receive. To ensure this election does not become a junk e-mail, a copy of the form is enclosed for Members receiving this newsletter.

There will be three options:

- *All electronic communications:* This will allow for communication of all Group activities, newsletters and motoring information updates.
- *Essential electronic communications:* Members will receive only those communications dealing with their membership of the Group but will not receive other updates.
- *Postal communications only:* Members will receive all essential communications by post but may not receive other updates relating to Group activities.

The renewal form will also update contact information and other data to minimise the amount of administration involved in the renewal process.

Payments may be made by cheque, internet banking or standing order. Unfortunately the Group's banking arrangements do not permit the establishment of Direct Debits. It would be appreciated if those members paying by standing order would ensure that instructions to their banks are up to date and reflect current subscription levels.

Membership Fees are being retained at existing levels but we shall not in future be issuing membership cards. The cost and effort in issuing these far outweighs any value as they are rarely requested at Group activities, or for other reasons, and we have alternative methods of verifying membership. Members who have viewed these cards as a receipt for the membership fee, may request a receipt by enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope with their renewal form or may request an acknowledgement of payment electronically. Those members paying by internet banking are asked to note that, as the bank only advises the Group monthly of such payments, there may therefore be some delay in confirming receipt of the subscription.

It can be difficult for voluntary organisations to keep systems up-to-date given the constant changes and improvements in technology. The Committee hopes that these changes will enable the Group to improve its service to its members and to enhance their motoring experience. If you wish to comment on these changes or would like to offer your assistance in running the Group, please feel free to contact me at memsec@guildford-iam.org.uk.

David Pearce
Membership Secretary

Officers and Committee Members

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The Institute of Advanced Motorists

**We are offering a free accompanied assessment drive of about 1 hour duration.
You will receive a confidential appraisal of your driving from a qualified IAM Observer.**

**Let's make the roads in your town or village a safer place for all.
It's only with your participation as a driver that we can achieve this aim.
All ages of driver are welcome and will benefit.**

Contact: Chris Hughes, 07814 172531 Email: firstcontact@guildford-iam.org.uk

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